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**General Assembly**
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Agenda item 34
**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-sixth year**

## Identical letters dated 1 August 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 29 July 2011, concerning the submission for ratification of the so-called agreement between the Russian Federation and Abkhazia on cooperation and mutual assistance in the area of customs to the State Duma of Russia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Shalva **Tsiskarashvili**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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## Annex to the identical letters dated 1 August 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

## Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the submission for ratification by the Russian President of the so-called agreement between the Russian Federation and Abkhazia on cooperation and mutual assistance in the area of customs to the State Duma

On 28 July 2011, the President of the Russian Federation, D. Medvedev, submitted for ratification the so-called agreement between the Russian Federation and Abkhazia on cooperation and mutual assistance in the area of customs to the State Duma.

It is noteworthy that neither present nor any other so-called "international agreements" concluded between the Russian Federation and Georgia's occupied regions have any legal effect or are applicable in international relations, as Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia represent integral parts of Georgia and do not have the status of subjects of international law. Hence, any relations which Russian authorities engage in with its proxy regimes in control of these territories are in violation of universally recognized norms and principles of international law as well as obligations of Russia undertaken in the international arena.

Moreover, in circumstances when the Georgian side expresses its readiness to resolve all outstanding issues between Georgia and Russia and is undertaking concrete efforts in this direction, the recent step by the President of the Russian Federation once again makes it clear that the Russian side is not willing to proceed with negotiations with Georgia in a constructive manner.

It should be underscored that the Russian side continuously tries to instil "new reality" created by Russia; however, neither Georgia nor the international community will legitimize or tolerate this reality.

Tbilisi, 29 July 2011